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YELLOWSTONE MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER



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Featured Master Gardener - Tom Kress



Tom started in the program in 2003. Dr. Bob Gough was the instructor at that time. Tom worked for the Northern Pacific and Burlington Northern Railroad companies for 31 years. He worked in Laurel, Livingston, Billings, and Kalispell. Tom started out as a switchman and then went on to become a brakeman and a conductor. Tom met his wife Barb while working for the railroad through her brother. After taking an early disability retirement in Kalispell, Tom moved back to Laurel to help with Barb's father. Tom and Barb's 3 children had graduated from college by this time. Tom had gardens in all the towns he lived in but got his passion in Kalispell. In Kalispell he joined the Montana Dahlia Association and really enjoyed the camaraderie of the club. Moving from the east end of the state to the north-west end was quite a change in gardening. He had to relearn everything he knew. Tom experimented with different ways of growing things and found ways to grow what he wanted. He figured out how to grow sweet corn when no one else could. His tomatoes were a different matter. He could only get plants to produce tomatoes every 2 to 5 years because of the rain and weather. One year he had to pull all his tomato plants up at the end of August because it rained everyday and they couldn't grow. Tom now has a garden business where he sells produce at the Farmer's Market in Laurel and to stores around the area. His business developed because he grew so much that he couldn't

give it all away. Tom is active in the Laurel Garden Club and also at the MontanaFair in Billings. He helped lay out the plan and plant the flower garden on Main Street in Laurel. Tom's hobbies include hunting and fishing but his first love is gardening. Tom and his wife Barb's three adult children are Christie in Salt Lake, Jason in Texas, and Charly in Anchorage. Tom's passion is seeing new green shoots come up in the ground. Right now he's into greenhouses to get an early jump on planting and seeing the new life come up. His greenhouse also allows him to extend his season as long as possible. Tom's tip for the month is never give up on your gardening. When something doesn't work then try a new technique or a different variety of a plant. I was excited to have 3 blossoms on my tomatoes until I talked to Tom today who has already picked 10 tomatoes from his garden and his corn is chest high. This shows what can happen with a little different style of gardening. Tom really enjoys all of the social events, for the social aspect and also because he can talk about gardening. He loves to have people come over to his house and tour his gardens, which I highly recommend. Tom is very passionate about gardening of all types. His knowledge comes from his willingness to try new things and keep learning all he can. I know I keep saying this but Tom shows how amazing all you guys are!! Tom and all our members are the reason we have the best program in the state.

-Submitted by Bob Wicks

Tips to Share

To deadhead iris, reach to the bottom of the stalk and snap downward to break the whole stalk off. It won't bloom again anyway.

Hopefully you have been pinching back your garden chrysanthemums to make them more bushy. Quit pinching by July 15th.

Complete your fertilization of fruit trees and shrubs by June. This allows them time to finish growth and starts the hardening off period before Fall.

JUNE REVIEW



On June 2 the first Yellowstone Master Gardeners Association picnic was held at the Zoo Montana sensory garden. About 30 people attended the potluck on a perfect morning. After the picnic, we planted a hydrangea donated by Field of Dreams in honor of long time Master Gardener and caretaker of the sensory garden, Julie Halvorson. We love you, Julie, for who you are and all that you have done.

Elaine Allard hosted a water gardening tour and workshop at her home on Moon Valley on June 10th and 11th. It was well attended by interested gardeners from as far away as Cody, WY.

Thursday, June 14th was a great day at the Bridger Plant Resource Center. About 60 people were there to see the greenhouse, equipment, plant propagation, test plots, trees growing in different stages, test grasses and flowers for reclamation, and seed cleaning.

Imagine cleaning and picking out seeds by hand all day? Well, they were able to acquire a small machine that takes a picture of the correct size, color and shape of seed. Then when the seed rolls in front of the lens, the good seed rolls into a pan and a puff of air sends the unacceptable seed into another pan. This way they can mail only good seed and not inferior seed or weed seed. So cool! There are only 27 research plants in the United States and we have "One of Montana's best kept secrets" here in Bridger. They have a wealth of information for everyone.



Test
Plots

Birdsfoot
Trefoil



For more information, see Page 4

Dr. Bob Gough Memorial Tree Planting



Always do right—this will gratify some and astonish the rest.. Mark Twain

Yellowstone County Master Gardener Association Update

We have finally completed the application for nonprofit status with the federal government and are submitting our application. We have received nonprofit status from the state. When we receive it from the federal government, we will begin looking for grants to apply for to help the Master Gardener program in various ways, such as improving the display at the Farmer's Market and helping the Extension Service with some of the costs of the Master Gardener classes.

We also clarified our role in conjunction with the Extension Service in helping the Master Gardener program to thrive. While we are a separate organization, our goals are to help the Master Gardener program to be sustainable and successful and to promote community involvement in and education about horticulture in Billings. We also hope to provide a forum for Yellowstone County Master Gardeners to get to know each other better, continue their horticultural education, and keep in touch outside of the classes held each spring. *Submitted by Ann Guthals*

HEUCHERA * CORAL BELLS

Common Name: Alumroot, Coral Bells. Heuchera is the perfect perennial to brighten up any garden throughout the entire growing season. Heuchera coloration varies by cultivar, but mainly includes various hues of amber, bronze-green, green, gold, pink, purple, deep purple and silver veined. They produce clusters of cream to red colored coral bell shaped flowers on tall wiry stems that rise above the foliage. Depending on the cultivar, they bloom from a few weeks or throughout the entire season. There are 50 to 70 species of Heuchera which are native to North America



Nomenclature: The genus Heuchera was named after an 18 century German professor of medicine and botanist Johann Heinrich von Heuchner (1677-1747) who specialized in medicinal plants. The common name 'coral bells' is derived from the nodding bell-shaped flowers.

USDA Hardiness Zones: Coral bells are generally hardy throughout Zones 4 to 9. However, several cultivars are hardy to Zone 3.

Preferred Conditions: Coral bells prefer to be planted in locations with a fertile, moist, well-drained soil. They do not perform well in locations with poor drainage during the winter months. Most Heuchera cultivars will grow more vigorously and have the best leaf coloration when they are planted in locations with partial shade, particularly in the afternoon. Purple leafed cultivars can tolerate more direct sun. Conversely, the amber and gold leafed cultivars are less sun tolerant. **Maintenance:** Heuchera are considered easy to grow and require little maintenance. To encourage continuous flowering or repeat bloom, deadhead the spent flower spikes as needed. Mulching during the summer months will keep the soil moist and prevent injury to the shallow root system from heat. They can be divided every 3 to 4 years if they lose vigor or when the crowns get to large. **Pest and Diseases:** Generally, they can be grown without any insect or disease problems. Overly wet conditions during the winter months can lead to some plants rotting out. Mulching before winter may help prevent frost heaving. *Submitted by Sheri*



**WATCH FOR
YOUR POST-
CARD IN THE
MAIL FOR JULY
EVENTS.**

**"SHOWTONES
IN BLOOM" Flower Show—August 3rd & 4th for Horticulture (annuals, perennials, bulbs, roses, arboreal, fruits, vegetables, herbs & potted plants) Floral Designs, Youth entries, and Educational Exhibits.**

Join the fun in sharing your gardening skills by bringing your entries to 214th North Broadway Ave, downtown on Friday, August 3rd between 8 & 11 AM. Ask Amy or Mary McLane for the information booklet for the show if you don't already have one and ENTER!!! - You will receive one hour of volunteer credit for entering the show. Over 1000 people view the show on Saturday morning.

"Nothing I have never said did me any harm I have noticed." Calvin Coolidge



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<http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/horticulture/mastergard.asp>

Best wishes to these
Master Gardeners with
July Birthdays!

July 10—Amy Grandpre
July 19—Merita Murdock

Please send your birthday
date (not the year) to
Amy at
agrandpre@co.yellowstone.mt.gov



HOW ARE WE DOING?

We are half way through the year with our newsletter and were wondering what you think?

1. Do you read the newsletter?
2. What part do you enjoy the most?
3. What would you like to see added or deleted?
4. Have you thought about contributing?
5. Do you think we should continue with the newsletter?
6. If so, monthly, every other month, or quarterly?
7. Does it carry pertinent information for you?

We would like 100% participation in this endeavor so that we will know what direction to take in the future.

Please respond to the 7 questions at ymastergardener@gmail.com

SPINICH SALAD

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2/3 cup vegetable oil | 1/4 cup red wine vinegar |
| 2 teaspoons lemon juice | 2 teaspoons soy sauce |
| 1 teaspoon sugar | 1 teaspoon dry mustard |
| 1/2 teaspoon curry powder | 1/2 teaspoon salt |
| 1/2 teaspoon seasoned pepper | 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder |
| 1 package (10 ounces) fresh spinach
torn into bite size pieces | 5 bacon strips, cooked and
crumbled |

Combine first ingredients in a jar; cover tightly and shake until well mixed; set aside. Place spinach in a large salad bowl. Just before serving, pour dressing over spinach and toss gently. Garnish with crumbled bacon and egg slices. Yield 6-8 servings.

Yellowstone County Master Gardeners Re-member "Dr. Bob" Gough

The morning of June 25, 2012 turned out to be one of those hot, muggy mornings that often precede a triple digit temperature reading later in the day. But at 9 am the gathering began, at MetraPark in Billings Montana. The occasion was the planting of a Memorial Tree and to remember Dr. Bob Gough.

The event's conception began earlier in February when Master Gardener Paul Bokoski attended one of the 2012 Master Gardener classes on tree care, which he does for ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Certification. He hadn't heard that Bob had passed away the previous September and he wondered if the Yellowstone County Master Gardeners had done a memorial for him. Hearing not, he immediately stated that he'd like to do something, as Dr. Bob had made such an impact on his life. The challenge came when Paul decided he'd like to buy and plant a tree....but where would Bob have been most present in the placement of this memorial tree? Upon finding out that the Courthouse park area was too full of trees, it was then decided that MetraPark would be the choice. A gentle berm alongside the pond was chosen, and quite unintentionally that choice ended up being unbelievably perfect, as it overlooked the Yellowstone Room, the very room where Bob had actually taught the Master Gardener class, that most of the gatherers of the day had attended.

The event was made extra special as Cheryl Moore-Gough, Bob's wife/widow, had come all the way in from Bozeman, coming just for the event. Also in

attendance were Bill Dutcher - MetraPark General Manager, and Jeff Seward - MetraPark Event Coordinator.

As Paul and Bob Wicks dug the planting hole, the gatherers got reacquainted with Cheryl and the sharing began. Corry Mordeaux, unable to attend, sent along his Excellence in Outreach Award document he had submitted March 12, 2004, which Amy Grandpre read. This document, like a diary entry for the date, was a step back in time, to the exact place that most of us remembered learning from Bob during the early stages of the local Master Gardener program....and all in sight of the Yellowstone Room.

It was his teaching technique blended with Dr. Bob humor, his knowledge and love of all things horticulture and his passion for the Master Gardener program that had impacted the gatherers this day. So much of who he was has been passed on to so many in the state of Montana. It's these things that will be Dr. Bob's ongoing legacy, a testament to the impact of one life's mission on others, and encouragement to us all to pursue and follow those passions we hold dear.

Dr. Bob, your legacy lives on in us. Master Gardeners in attendance: Bob Wicks, Dick Roach, Merita Murdock, Paul Bokoski, Sheri Kisch, Tom Kress, Tracy Livingston, and Amy Grandpre.

Article submitted by Amy Grandpre, Yellowstone County Horticulture Assistant and Yellowstone County Master Gardener Coordinator.